

Roper Asks Law To Defer Taxes Of Losing Firms

Former Revenue Chief Says Payments for December on Income and Profits Should Be Postponed

Urges Congress to Act

Favors Extension of the Net Loss Provision to Cover Deficit of 1920

Special Dispatch to The Tribune
BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Nov. 14.—Immediate legislation to permit business firms which have suffered heavy financial losses in the current commercial and industrial depression to postpone payment of the December 15 installment of income and profits taxes under certain conditions was advocated by Daniel C. Roper, former Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in an address here today before a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Mr. Roper also recommended that Congress soon after its convening next month consider remedial legislation to extend the net loss provision of the revenue act to the year 1920, so that business institutions which have suffered loss this year through shrinkage of values of their stocks of commodities may deduct these losses from last year's income in calculating taxes due.

"Because of financial and industrial conditions with which all are acquainted," Mr. Roper said, "many concerns are going to experience great difficulty in meeting this installment. The tremendous decline since the first of this year in the market value of many stable commodities has resulted in an almost unprecedented shrinkage of inventory values. In many instances these losses exceed the entire net income for 1919, and the unfortunate companies possessing such goods find themselves unable to convert their wares into cash or to obtain credit at their banks by which to meet the tax based upon their paper profits, that have never been realized.

Court Actions Mean Disaster
"In some of these cases under the present law, unless it is amended before December 15, it will be mandatory upon the Treasury to collect the tax by court action through distraint proceedings. This would mean financial disaster in many cases and should be avoided."

"A plan should be devised for legislative relief for such cases, whether arising from inventory losses or from other industrial and financial conditions, by deferring the tax payment for a period of, say, six months, under such safeguards as will extend the benefit only to those concerns which cannot pay the tax. Where such payment

is deferred I would suggest that the normal rate of interest be as high as 8 per cent, to discourage those who might improperly take advantage of the government under a low rate of interest."

In urging early amendment of the net loss section, to make it apply to the current year, and to taxes due next year, the former Revenue Commissioner said:

"Section 204 of the revenue act provides that in case a taxpayer sustains a net loss in a taxable year beginning after October 1, 1918, and ending prior to January 1, 1920, such net loss may be deducted from the income of the preceding year, or, if necessary, from the income of the succeeding year, with the taxes for that year recomputed accordingly.

No Provision for Shrinkages
"This provision was enacted in contemplation of the period of industrial and financial contraction which is now upon us, but the contraction did not take place within the period specified in the law. The result is that now there is no provision to care for the tremendous shrinkages in the inventories which have taken place since January 1, 1920.

"A striking of a balance sheet of gain or loss every twelve months and the treatment of credit balances thus obtained as net income for the purpose of taxation is a necessary but arbitrary accounting practice that frequently results in serious inequity. For example, if a business concern made \$20,000 in 1918, lost \$10,000 in 1919 and made \$25,000 in 1920 it has not earned profits of \$25,000 in the three-year period, but only \$15,000.

"Certainly, both the Treasury Department and the Congress will see the justice of permitting net losses in one year to be offset against profits of prior or subsequent years, and will unite in the effort to give the taxpayers this just and needed relief."

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Fridiger to Ask Arrest Of Detectives in Raid

Declares Rooms of Equitable Social Club Were Entered Illegally by Officers

Louis Fridiger, counsel for the thirty-four members of the Equitable Social Club, at 7 East Twelfth Street, who were arrested in a raid upon the club Saturday afternoon and later released by a magistrate, declared yesterday that as soon as he recovers from a

slight indisposition which overtook him after appearing in court, he will seek warrants for the arrest of the detectives who participated in the raid.

He will start action today, he said, if he feels well enough, on the ground that the social club was unlawfully entered without a warrant. Twenty detectives participated in the raid and caused great excitement in the lower Fifth Avenue residential section. When a fence in the rear of the club collapsed under the weight of several detectives, women rushed to windows and screamed for the police, thinking

burglars were working in the neighborhood.

"They had no right to enter the club without a warrant any more than they had a right to enter any other respectable place," said Fridiger. "Two hundred respectable business men belong to the club. The methods of the detectives were high handed, to say the least. As soon as I can get out I'll try to get warrants for their arrest for unlawful entry."

Inspector Nolan said many complaints had been made against the club and police had been watching it for some time.

Reinstated Hero-Fireman Is Assigned to Company

Louis Tischler Glad To Be Back in His Old District With His Buddies

Louis Tischler, who was dismissed from the Fire Department two years ago for insubordination and reinstated as the result of heroic assistance which he gave firemen in making rescues at a fire on Furth Street last August, has been assigned to Hook and Ladder Company 18, on Attorney Street.

At the time of his dismissal he was attached to Hook and Ladder Company 6, on Canal Street. His present station takes in much the same district and he frequently meets his old comrades of No. 6 at fires. He has been a fireman for nineteen years and he is pleased to be back at his accustomed work.

"It's splendid," he said yesterday. "Everybody has been great to me, Hook and Ladder No. 18 is new to me, but I'm at home in a firehouse anywhere. I see my old buddies of No. 6 at almost every fire, and that means pretty often, for this is one of the busiest stations in the city."

J. Salter Hansen Acquitted In Special Sessions Trial

J. Salter Hansen, who furnished bail for William O. Jenkins, the American Consul who was arrested in Mexico, was acquitted in Special Sessions Friday of a charge on which he was arrested last March after his return to this city.

The charge, that of impairing the morals of a minor, was made against him originally in December, 1918. He was acquitted in the following May and a jury disagreed. The accusation was revived when he got back from Mexico and he now has been exonerated.

ROTARY CLUB Activities

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Boy Scouts Beat the Business Men

FOR several weeks the Rotary Club of New York has been calling through this page for action from the business men of the city to send wounded and disabled soldiers to the Armories to register for Vocational Training when entitled to such service according to the regulations.

The disabled boys were lax and diffident and wouldn't come. The help of Rotarians and all other business men was enlisted, but not until the Boy Scouts got on the job did the Armories have to close up shop, simply because they couldn't handle all the applicants.

Change of Program.
This week no Armories will be open to receive the soldier boys, but next week they will be at it again after the congestion has been cleared away.

The Government is discharging its obligation to these temporarily and permanently disabled service men in so thorough a manner that it would be inconsistent to rush more through than could be sincerely attended to—therefore they closed up shop for seven days and told the Boy Scouts to lay off for a few days.

When and Where to Go.
During the week of November 15-20, however, applicants for Vocational Training will be received at the War Risk Bureau, at 47 West 43d Street, between the hours of 9 and 5.

When the Armories open again, on November 22, the several crews of Boy Scouts promise to cork-screw or dig out war disabled men so fast that the Armories will again have to call for breathing time.

Let's Pay Our Debts
Gentlemen of the City of New York, the Rotary Club wants your interest and enthusiastic support in this matter. These boys fought that we all might live in freedom and happiness. They were wounded in our cause and we, the citizens of this community, owe a debt that we must honorably acknowledge.

If you know a disabled soldier, beat the Boy Scouts to it and send him in for Vocational Training. If you have a job open for a man, give the disabled soldier a first chance at it and then be patient with him.

The Rotary Club Headquarters in the Hotel McAlpin will be glad to give any citizen or disabled soldier boy any and all information required.

The Rotary Club of New York is an organization of men representing all lines of commercial activity. Its purpose is to lift men and business to a higher ethical level. Headquarters, 22d floor, Hotel McAlpin.

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